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the wonderful instinct which led him to secure for American collectors so many of the rare specimens of early American publications.

The reader will enjoy the appreciative way in which these gentlemen and many others with kindred tastes are mentioned, but he will not fail to notice the offensive tone (pp. 27-28) in which judgment is pronounced against three Boston gentlemen who secured by exchange many years ago three of the five "Bay Psalm Books" then on the shelves of the Prince Library. Those who sympathize with the views of the author may perhaps justify him in thus pillorying these names for all time, but there are many persons who prefer to accept contemporary statements that the entire transaction was reasonable and proper. The same readiness to adopt a conclusion is found in the announcement that the name of the original owner of the press was "Joseph" Glover. Students have been much perplexed, heretofore, to determine whether Josse, the name by which he was generally described, was baptismal or a nickname, and if the latter, which of the several names it might represent was the baptismal name of Glover. If he has any new evidence, he does not say so.

The reference to the books of the Cambridge Press as "American incunabula", "incunabula of the Anglo-American Press", "New England incunabula", or even as "native incunabula" might be defended, but those who sympathize with the lexicographers in their efforts to put a time limit on the word incunabula when applied to books will question whether the Bay Psalm Book can be "regarded as one of the most valuable examples of the world's incunabula" (p. 15).

The act "Ffor the prventinge of Irregularities and abuse to the Authoritie of the Country by the printinge presse" as quoted by the author (p. 110) differs from the text of the same act in the *Massachusetts Bay Records*, IV., part II., p. 141. The source of authority is not indicated.

The book has a meagre index, but on the whole is a satisfactory piece of work, the only serious blemish being the unnecessary attack on the Boston collectors which has already been referred to.

ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS.

The American Nation: a History. Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume 8. *Preliminaries of the Revolution, 1763-1775.* By GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD, Professor of Institutional History in the University of Nebraska. Volume 9. *The American Revolution, 1776-1783.* By CLAUDE HALSTEAD VAN TYNE, Assistant Professor of American History, University of Michigan. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1905. Pp. xviii, 359; xix, 369.)

THESE volumes cover the two decades between the peace of Paris of 1763 and the treaty of 1783. That upon the *Preliminaries of the Revolution* is an essential introduction to the following volume, and their

relation indicates again the expertness with which the general series has been planned and the interdependence of its items. The first chapter of the *American Revolution* is a careful and exact summary of the developments and conditions which made possible the conflict, and which are elaborated by Professor Howard, particularly in his chapters on the mercantile colonial system, the religious situation in the colonies, and the political conditions at the close of the French War. His volume naturally treats of the Navigation Acts, the Stamp Act, and the Townshend Acts and the controversial results of each, and covers the period of the committees of correspondence, the coercive acts of 1774, the opening of the Continental Congress, and "The Appeal to Arms". "The Case of the Loyalists" is also discussed. The volume by Professor Van Tyne contains seven chapters devoted especially to military history, three chiefly to foreign relations, three to internal relations and politics, and, among the remaining four, one to "The New West." The essential material embraced in the field covered by Professor Van Tyne is possibly more extensive than that in the field covered by Professor Howard, and yet the volume presents a concise, accurate, and readable statement of all the important matters relevant to the subjects discussed. In both volumes there is apparent a careful apportioning of space and a successful adjustment of the relative values of materials. There is in each, also, a lucidity of statement that makes the volumes useful to one not familiar with the technique of the subject, and there is also, at times, a suggestiveness in the form of statement or in the conclusions that makes the volumes important from the point of view of the teacher.

It may be doubted whether either volume adds much to the thoroughly exploited facts in its respective field. Thus, the chapter in the *American Revolution* on state sovereignty, while entertaining and bearing evidences of thoroughness, adds very little to the subject. On the contrary, some portions such as the chapter on "Framing New State Governments" are, to a considerable degree, newly stated, although the material at hand seems not to have been fully used. It may be assumed, however, that these volumes are not intended solely, or even primarily, for the student, and should not be judged from any such point of view, but rather as volumes designed to afford to the studious reader a general and accurate survey of the subjects considered. That service these volumes render in an excellent manner, and allowance must be made for the limitations that necessarily are put upon an author by the requirements of such a purpose. The foot-notes indicate the sources and make possible for the reader some familiarity with the original literature of the subject. If one might with hesitation criticize a small feature, but one which seems characteristic, the realization that the *Preliminaries* is mostly a restatement becomes oppressive when one notes that in a few more than three hundred pages the author uses more than nine hundred sets of quotation-marks! Both volumes employ the ocular method of demonstrating conditions, and to good purpose, as by the four charts in the earlier volume, showing the method of appointment of members of

the Old Congresses; and, in the later volume, the charted maps showing the accessions to the idea of independence and the character of anti-loyalist legislation.

There is apparent the purpose to keep steadily in view the problems of general national development, and to discuss the various detailed events only as they may affect or explain that development. This object is more readily attained in Professor Howard's volume, and leaves upon the reader the distinct impression that the narrative is simply that of a logical sequence of related events rather than a review of happenings whose relation is merely chronological. There is also noticeable the subjection of isolated events and facts, and insistence upon the importance of tendencies and influences of which the solitary events are only indications or illustrations. With so much detail, this end is not easily attained; but it is secured even in the first chapter of the *Preliminaries*, and persistence in this policy of handling the mass of material makes of the volume a success. Of the reviews of various phases of colonial development which constitute much of this work, none is clearer or more serviceable than that on the problem of an American episcopate and the effect and meaning of the agitation. Of a different type is the chapter on the "Institutional Beginnings of the West", which explains in concise form the various efforts at trans-Allegheny development and their relation to the national growth. The net result of the volume as historical literature is aptly stated by the editor of the series himself, when he says (p. xv) that the author's "investigations bring him to about the same point as those of earlier writers—viz., that war was inevitable because of long antecedent causes tending to independence, and was precipitated by the failure of the home government to understand either the situation or the American people; but that it was not a result of direct and conscious oppression." Such being the case, the general character of the work, as indicated, the particular scope of the volume, and the skill of the author are in large measure all that differentiate it from the existing material upon the subject.

The volume by Professor Van Tyne is similar to the preceding volume in many of its features, although he introduces, possibly, more original opinions. Thus, there is some divergence from what many now consider the orthodox view with respect to the character of the new national government, the author, very naturally and not altogether improperly, reflecting the prevailing views of the times of which he writes. In so far as those views are allowed to shape his own opinion, he will naturally become subject to the criticism of the later writers who have interpreted the meaning of the Revolution in the light of political philosophy and of later developments. The introductory chapter of this volume, describing briefly the conditions prevailing immediately prior to the Revolution and indicating the general currents of influence which were then effective, is an excellent example of terse, exact, and philosophical description. It is to be regretted that the necessity of dealing at some length with the details of military history has prevented a sim-

ilar treatment by this author of the institutional developments of the decade. As already indicated, the volume covers not simply the military history and the incidental relations to foreign powers, but also the first steps in the formation of new state governments. Upon this topic the material is presented in more readily available and in more logical form than elsewhere. The author recognizes the political importance of the state organizations of the time, and this may in some measure explain his views upon the character of the national government. There is also a suggestive chapter upon the relations between the Whigs and Tories, and a sketch also of "The New West" which supplements the similar chapter in the preceding volume.

Without attempting, as indeed would be out of place, a minute criticism of details upon which the judgment of the author has doubtless been controlled by the exigencies of the series, it may simply be remarked that the two volumes illustrate a high standard of "serial" historical work, bringing as they do to the reader who may be only partially familiar with the groundwork an intelligible and attractive statement of important phases in national development, and giving also to the student of the period an instructive and refreshing review of materials, most of which, to be sure, are commonplace. Each of the volumes is supplemented, as usual, with a critical estimate of the literature of its subject.

H. A. C.

The Writings of Samuel Adams. Collected and edited by HARRY ALONZO CUSHING. Volume II., 1770-1773. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. Pp. x, 454.)

THIS volume of the writings of the "great incendiary" covers a period of deep interest and importance, during which he was in a large degree responsible for keeping alive the flame of discontent. His persistent and untiring attention to the grievances of the hour, and the aid received from the tactless obduracy of Hutchinson seem to the reader to have been the chiefest cause for the continuance of ill-feeling. As to this, however, it is difficult to speak with assurance, for it is hard to say what were the discontents of the common people and of the artisans and watermen of Boston with whom Adams had so much influence. Beginning just before the massacre, the volume ends with the prolonged discussion over the power of Parliament between Hutchinson and the Representatives, a discussion in which Hutchinson's arguments were so strong and ill-timed that they were successful in practically committing the American party to the denial of all power in Parliament. Much of the space is taken up with a consideration of the massacre and the evidence of the soldiers' guilt. Here we find not only a revelation of Adams's bitter hostility to the soldiery and to Hutchinson, but interesting evidence of the dangerous irritation caused by the presence of the troops. Many of the letters and public papers deal also with the right